

CHAPTER 33
GRADUATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

283—33.1(261) State-supported grants. The graduate student financial assistance program provides state-supported grants to Iowa residents pursuing graduate programs at approved institutions of postsecondary education in Iowa that will qualify them to pursue faculty teaching careers.

283—33.2(261) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“*Approved institutions*” means any public or private institution of higher learning located in Iowa which is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools that awards degrees at the doctoral level (Ph.D.).

“*Qualified student*” means an individual resident of Iowa who is enrolled at an approved institution in a course of study that will qualify the student to pursue a faculty teaching career in higher education in areas where there is, or may be, a shortage of teaching faculty. The student must be officially registered as a doctoral student.

“*Tuition and mandatory fees*” means those college costs paid annually by the qualified students enrolled on a full-time basis, such costs to be reported annually to the commission by each participating institution.

283—33.3(261) Resident classification. The criteria used by the state board of regents to determine undergraduate residency for tuition purposes, 681 IAC 1.4(262), are adopted for this program.

283—33.4(261) Award limits and eligibility requirements.

33.4(1) The annual amount of the grant to a full-time student shall not exceed the student’s direct education expenses for tuition and fees paid by the student directly to the institution.

33.4(2) The maximum amount of a grant to a part-time student shall be prorated according to the student’s course load in comparison to the course load of a full-time student in a similar program.

33.4(3) Grants shall be awarded on an annual basis and shall be credited by the institution against the student’s tuition and fees at the beginning of each term in equal installments upon certification that the eligible student is enrolled.

33.4(4) If, after crediting the amount of the grant to the student’s tuition, fees, and, if applicable, room and board charges, a credit balance remains, the institution may distribute the grant balance to the student, who may use the proceeds for other bona fide education expenses such as books, equipment, and transportation.

33.4(5) If a student receiving a grant under the program discontinues attendance before the end of any academic period, but after receiving payment of grant funds for the academic period, the entire amount of any refund due the student shall be used to fund additional awards, but in no case may an institution exceed its annual allocation.

283—33.5(261) Extent of grant. A qualified full-time student may receive grants for not more than six semesters of postgraduate study or the trimester or quarter equivalent. A qualified part-time resident student may receive grants for not more than 12 semesters of postgraduate study or the trimester or quarter equivalent.

283—33.6(261) Application and award process.

1. Eligible students shall apply for this grant through the institution's graduate college.
2. Institutions shall use funds provided by this program to develop aid packages which minimize the tax liability for grant recipients.
3. The institution shall notify the recipients that the award is a state-funded grant.
4. The institution is responsible for completing necessary verification and for reporting changes of student eligibility to the commission.

283—33.7(261) Full year of study. For purposes of this program, the commission has defined full year of study as either two semesters or three quarters. Grant payments are prorated according to this definition.

283—33.8(261) Priority for grants. Applicants pursuing postgraduate programs who are expected to seek faculty positions in critical shortage areas shall be given priority for assistance.

If funds are insufficient to provide grants to all applicants on the basis of the above provision, the institution shall make the selections on the basis of either the relative demand for faculty in the student's field of study or need for assistance.

283—33.9(261) University allocations. University allocations will be made based on the institution's share of eligible postgraduate students.

283—33.10(261) Restrictions. A student who is in default on a Stafford Loan, SLS Loan, or a Perkins/National Direct/National Defense Student Loan or who owes a repayment on any Title IV grant assistance or state award shall be ineligible for assistance under the program. Eligibility for state aid may be reinstated upon payment in full of the delinquent obligation or by commission ruling on the basis of adequate extenuating evidence presented in appeal under the procedures set forth in 283—Chapter 5, Iowa Administrative Code.

28—33.11(261) Institutional reporting. The commission will monitor the program according to this chapter and will require participating postsecondary institutions that receive funds for enrolled students to furnish any information necessary for the implementation or administration of the program. The information must include, but will not be limited to, the methods and data used to determine faculty shortage areas.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 261.52A.

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